



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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W. E. Roberts

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Mr. DC Orr
1117 Nevada Avenue
Libby, Montana 59923

FEB 15 2006

Dear Mr. Orr:

The office of Senator Conrad Burns recently brought to our attention your July, 9, 2005, letter to the Senator regarding various items of concern at the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. EPA regrets that you are not receiving a more timely response.

Your comments on the export plant, lumber mill, city buildings, and the boat ramp have been previously addressed on several occasions in public meetings, through Inspector General investigations, and in personal conversations that you have had with EPA staff, so those issues will not be further addressed at this time.

EPA acknowledges that there is asbestos contamination along Highway 37 which likely will be scheduled for cleanup once a Record of Decision is final. As the Contaminant Screening Study Final Summary Report for Montana State Highway 37 describes on pages 2-4 through 2-13 (enclosed), the contamination level is not alarmingly high, but it does warrant concern. After careful consideration of the sample results, location of the contamination, magnitude of the visible vermiculite, and anecdotal reports from other agencies and from Libby residents, we concluded that EPA or its contractors were not the source of this contamination. EPA will continue to oversee contamination transport, contamination disposal, and decontamination practices at the Libby Asbestos Site to ensure the environment and Libby residents are protected.

I hope this information will help address your questions about this very important project in Libby. If you need anything further for now, please contact Ted Linnert, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator for the Libby site, at toll free 800-227-8917, ext. 6119.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Roberts

Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator

cc.: Ms. Denise Smith, Office of Senator Conrad Burns